

XXXVI.—*The Types of the Mammals described by  
M. Fernand Lataste.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

By a most liberal-minded act of generosity M. Fernand Lataste, whose papers on Algerian and other mammals have made his name well known to all workers on the subject, has recently presented the whole of his fine collection of mammals and reptiles to the British Museum—a most valuable and highly appreciated accession.

In the collection there are the original specimens of practically all the species described by Lataste; but it was not the habit of workers at the date he wrote to particularize their type-specimens, and many—in fact, the majority—of the species are represented by numerous examples, often from different localities, and sometimes by individuals which have been kept alive in Paris and bred there; so that their descendants have in some cases been distributed as representing the species described.

Under these circumstances, both for the clearing up of any questions that might arise as to types and to facilitate the incorporation of the more important wild-killed individuals in the Museum collection, I have thought it wise to give a list of the species described by Lataste, to give the catalogue and register numbers of the types when these are single, and, when they are multiple, formally to nominate lectotypes for each species from the original series.

The collection being accompanied by an admirable and complete numbered catalogue, we have accepted the numbers of that catalogue as the Museum register numbers, the usual year, month, and day numbers 19. 7. 7. being placed in front of them. Thus, Lataste's no. 1234 now becomes B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 1234. Reference to the catalogue is thereby facilitated, while the additional labelling required is reduced to a minimum.

*Vesperugo (Vesperus) innesi*, Lat. (now *Eptesicus innesi*).

Ann. Mus. Genov. (2) iv. p. 625 (1887). *Hab.* Cairo.

Based on two specimens, ♂ and ♀, in spirit.

*Lectotype.* Female, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 3528. *Lectoparatype*, the male, now in the Genoa Museum.

*Molossus fluminensis*, Lat.

Ann. Mus. Genov. (2) x. p. 658 (1891). *Hab.* Rio Janeiro.

*Type.* Adult female skull. B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 324.

M. Lataste no doubt received this skull by exchange or gift from the Santiago Museum, where the spirit-specimen may still be preserved.

*Lutra angustifrons*, Lat.

Faun. Barb. Act. Soc. Linn. Bord. xxxix. p. 237 (1885). *Hab.* Bône, N. Algeria.

*Type.* Adult, apparently female. Skull only. B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 2531.

*Bifa lerotina*, Lat. (now *Eliomys lerotinus*).

Le Nat. iii. p. 61 (1885). *Hab.* Ghardaia, Mzab, Algerian Sahara.

*Lectotype.* Adult. Female skin, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 2884, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 2883. Lectoparatype, immature female, 19. 7. 7. 2888.

*Gerbillus hirtipes*, Lat.

Le Nat. ii. p. 21 (1882). *Hab.* Bamendile, Ouargla.

*Lectotype.* Adult female skin, 19. 7. 7. 1594, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 1595. Ten specimens originally obtained.

*Gerbillus garamantis*, Lat. (now *Dipodillus garamantis*).

Le Nat. i. p. 507 (1881). *Hab.* Sidi-Roueld, Ouargla.

*Type.* Old female skin, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 1596, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 1597.

*Gerbillus simoni*, Lat. (now *Dipodillus simoni*).

Le Nat. i. p. 497 (1881). *Hab.* Oued-Magra, N. of Hodna, High Plateau of Algeria.

*Lectotype.* Adult female. Skin, 19. 7. 7. 2347, and skull, 19. 7. 7. 2426. Twenty-five specimens originally obtained.

*Pachyuromys duprasi*, Lat.

Le Nat. i. p. 313 (1880). *Hab.* Laghouat, Algerian Sahara.

*Lectotype.* Old female skin, no. 19. 7. 7. 2348, and its skull, much deteriorated by captivity, no. 19. 7. 7. 2426 *bis*.

This would appear to be one of the original specimens sent alive to Paris, and was mentioned as living there when the animal was described.

The single specimen referred to by Lataste in his 'Mammals of Barbary' as undamaged by rickets is no. 19. 7. 7. 2272, from Bou-Saada. The species remains one of the rarest of Algerian mammals.

*Psammomys roudairei*, Lat.

Le Nat. i. p. 492 (1881). *Hab.* "Chotts," Plateau of Tunisia.

*Lectotype.* Female skin, no. 19. 7. 7. 1572, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 1573.

*Meriones trouessarti*, Lat.

Le Nat. ii. p. 69 (1882). *Hab.* Bou-Saada, Algeria.

*Lectotype.* Adult male skin no. 19. 7. 7. 2902, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 1566.

*Meriones ausiensis*, Lat.

Le Nat. ii. p. 77 (1882). *Hab.* Oued-Akarit, Aumale, High Plateau of Algeria.

*Lectotype.* Adult female skin, 19. 7. 7. 2903, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 1567.

*Meriones gatulus*, Lat.

Le Nat. ii. p. 83 (1882). *Hab.* Tilremt, near Laghouat.

*Lectotype.* Adult female skin, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 1561, and its skull, no. 19. 7. 7. 1560.

*Meriones longifrons*, Lat.

P. Z. S. 1884, p. 88. *Hab.* Jedda, Arabia.

*Lectotype.* Male skeleton, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 2246.

*Meriones albipes*, Lat.

Le Nat. ii. p. 101 (1882). *Hab.* Msila, High Plateau.

*Lectotype.* Female adult skin, 19. 7. 7. 1570, and its skeleton, 19. 7. 7. 1571.

A co-type of *M. albipes*, the separate skull mentioned in the original description, had already been presented to the British Museum (no. 82. 7. 29. 10)—this now becoming a lectoparatype.

*Meriones shawi longiceps*, Lat.

Mamm. Barb. Act. Soc. Linn. Bord. xxix. p. 269 (1885). *Hab.* Tunis.

*Lectotype.* Old male, skull only, 19. 7. 7. 1941.

The figured skull (P. Z. S. 1884, p. 94, fig. 2) is that of a specimen of mixed parentage, no. 19. 7. 7. 2294.

*Meriones shawi crassibulla*, Lat.

Mamm. Barb. Act. Soc. Linn. Bord. xxix. p. 269 (1885). *Hab.* Tebessa and other localities, Algeria.

*Lectotype.* Adult female skin, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 2982, and its skull, no. 19. 7. 7. 2981. From Tebessa.

*Mus spretus*, Lat.

Act. Linn. Soc. Bord. xxxvii. p. 27 (1883). *Hab.* Oued-Magra, High Plateau of Algeria.

*Type.* Adult female skin, 19. 7. 7. 1861, and its skeleton, 19. 7. 7. 1862.

*Pitymys planiceps*, Miller.

Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) i. p. 203 (1908). *Hab.* Barèges, Hautes Pyrénées, France.

*Type.* Adult, skull only, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 2190.

M. Lataste appears to have received this skull from Baron de Selys-Longchamps.

*Dipus darricarrerei*, Lat. (now *Jaculus*).

Ann. Mus. Genov. xviii. p. 661 (1883). *Hab.* Bou-Saada, Algeria.

*Lectotype.* Adult female skin, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 2077, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 2078.

(Probably referable to *Jaculus jaculus deserti*, Loche.)

*Ctenodactylus mzabi*, Lat. (now *Massoutiera mzabi*).

Bull. Soc. Zool. vi. p. 214 (1881). *Hab.* Ghardaia, Mzab.

*Lectotype.* Male skeleton, without skin, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 1311. The skull figured in the original paper. The other co-type (now lectoparatype), female, was given to the Paris Museum.

A metatype, skin and skull, is in the collection, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 2924.

*Massoutiera (Felovia) vœ*, Lat. (now *Felovia vœ*).

Le Nat. iii. p. 287 (1886). *Hab.* Felou, Senegal.

*Lectotype.* Adult female skin, B.M. no. 19. 7. 7. 3233, and its skull, 19. 7. 7. 3232.

The collection contains five other skulls and a spirit-specimen of this most striking animal, which was both collected and described by M. Lataste.

*Procavia latastei*, Thos.

P. Z. S. 1892, p. 69. *Hab.* Felou, Senegal.

*Lectotype.* Male skull, B.M. no. 7. 2. 8. 6. Formerly Lataste no. 2684.

Sent by M. Lataste to the Museo Civico, Genoa, and afterwards presented by the latter to the British Museum. Introduced here to complete the list of typical specimens formerly in the possession of M. Lataste. The distinction from *P. bocagei* rested wholly on the skull, which would therefore naturally be selected as the lectotype.

The other forms described by M. Lataste (*Meriones shawi laticeps*, *Gerbillus (Dipodillus) bottæ*, and *G. (D.) quadrimaculatus*) were all based on specimens in the Paris Museum.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize the generosity and scientific spirit M. Lataste has shown in presenting this valuable collection to the British Museum, where it will be so much appreciated. I have above only spoken of the typical specimens, but the collection, irrespective of them, is a most important accession to the Museum, containing many hundreds of specimens from Algeria, considerable numbers from Senegal, and an especially fine series of European small mammals—both skins, skulls, and spirit-specimens—including many special rarities.

And, in addition, there are good skulls of many middle-sized animals from the regions mentioned and elsewhere, such as jackals, foxes, otters, porcupines, and others, all such being very difficult to obtain, and therefore proportionally welcome as a contribution to our scientific collections.

In all, this is one of the most important additions that the mammal collection of the British Museum has ever received.